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TAGS: PREL KDEM I2 JO

SUBJECT: IRAQ SUNNI OUTREACH: AMMAN MEETING WITH  
EX-MINISTER OF TRADE MOHAMMED AL-JABOURI AND SHEIKH ADNAN  
AL-JABOURI

Classified By: AMBASSADOR DAVID HALE, REASONS: 1.4 (B &D)

Sheikh Adnan Al-Jabouri and the "Arab Iraqi List"

¶1. (C) Prominent Salah ad-Din Sunni figure Adnan al-Jabouri told Emboff on November 30 that he is supporting the "Arab Iraqi List," a regional party possibly affiliated with Hassib al-Obeidi's Arab List. The meeting occurred at the request of his cousin, former Minister of Trade Mohammed al-Jabouri, who is now working as an energy consultant in Amman. Adnan had just returned from a week in Riyadh, where he met with Saudi officials, along with Hassib al-Obeidi and other figures from Salah ad-Din, Mosul, and Kirkuk.

Bringing Insurgents onto the "Political Track"...

¶2. (C) Adnan claimed that he has the blessing of the major Sunni political movements, as well as that of Iyad Allawi, to help develop a list of core principles on Iraq's future that would be acceptable to these various political groupings and to a significant body of "nationalist insurgents." He said that the goal of the effort is to increase the policy coherence of the Sunni parties and the Allawi coalition, bring more insurgent groups "onto the political track," and hopefully prepare the groundwork for a post-election Sunni/Allawi alliance.

...Through an "All-Sunni" Manifesto

¶3. (C) The immediate aim of such an effort would be a signed manifesto-like document declaring the shared principles, and the formation of united Sunni political committees for Anbar, Diyala, Salah ad-Din, Nineva, and Baghdad. Adnan Jabouri said he would be meeting in Iraq in the coming week with Mishaan al-Jabouri and others, including some pro-insurgency figures, in pursuit of these goals. Note: Al-Jabouri took pains to differentiate this effort from the similar Anbar-oriented proposal launched last September by Abdul Latif Humayum and Saleh Mutlak. End Note.

Iraq Election Comments

¶4. (C) On the upcoming elections, al-Jabouri opined that Iyad Allawi will have difficulty winning seats in many parts of the south, but suggested that Allawi could potentially do well in Baghdad, Basra, Nasiriyyah, and the Central Euphrates. He claimed that Muqtada al Sadr is gaining ground among Sh'ia voters, and may be supported by one third of them, while Sh'ia support for Da'wa and SCIRI is weakening. Commenting that "no one party will be able to rule Iraq from now on," Mohammed al-Jabouri (backed by Adnan) made the following election result predictions:

Sunni Arab Groups - 55-60 seats

Allawi Coalition - 50-55 seats

Kurds - 45-50 seats

¶5. (C) The al-Jabouris contend that if the election produces 150 seats among the three above groups, they would be joined by independent Sh'ia, such as Shal'an and Chalabi, and end up with a two-thirds majority. In response, they predicted that Da'wa, SCIRI, and the pro-Iranians will "try to create an Anbar in the south."

Follow-Up

¶6. (C) Adnan al-Jabouri agreed to meet with USG representatives in Salah ad-Din, and to assist in USG contacts with Jabouri tribal figures from Syria. He claimed that the Jabouris are the biggest tribe in Syria. Mohammed al-Jabouri, Director General of the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) from May-November, 2003, and Minister of Trade under Iyad Allawi, was emphatic that he will accept no appointment in any future Iraqi government.

